for admission to the various courses in the colleges of the University varies depending upon the demand for a particular course/college and the number of seats available. There is, however, a marginal increase in the the cut-off percentage over a time.

(c) There are 43,321 sanctioned seats in the colleges. Students also have the option of being enrolled in the distance and non-formal streams, which, with an intake capacity of more than 70,000, are at par with the formal stream in terms of curriculum and the degrees awarded.

Vocational Education

32. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the centrally sponsored schemes and programmes formulated and being implemented for spreading the vocational education among the unemployed youths; and

(b) the number of the unemployed youths targeted to be benefited under the above schemes, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The Centrally sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education at + 2 level, which is being implemented since 1988-89, provides for diversification of educational opportunities as an alternative for the those pursuing higher education so as to enhance the individual employability, reduce mismatch between demand and supply of skilled manpower.

(b) Under the scheme the project proposals are being prepared by the State Governments considering the needs of the states targeting the unemployed youths in the State after conducting necessary survey in this regard.

Fear Psychosis due to examination

33. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of students suffering from traumatic disaster relating to fear of examinations is on the rise;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the exam-related stress is, sometimes leading to suicides;

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard;

(d) whether it is a fact that a meeting of experts was held; and

(e) if so,what are the suggestions/recommendations made by the experts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The problem of increasing stress among students during examinations and instances of some students committing suicide due to failure in examination and stress have been engaging the attention of the Government. However, there are various contributory factors such as competition, peer & parental pressure, fast changing socio and economic conditions, lack of employment opportunities and fear of failure in examinations which could become the cause of tragedies like suicides among students.

The Ministry is deeply concerned with the issue of higher stress level among students caused by the public examinations at the end of class X and XII conducted by various boards, Joint Entrance Examination for IITs and other entrance examinations.

(c) to (e) To address the question of promoting equality in access to education as also allow the students to have a stress free environment of joyful learning, the Ministry had convened a meeting with Eminent Educationists, Principals, representatives from premier Institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology and Indian Institutes of Management, Heads of the Boards of Examination and others on 24th March, 2005. It was unanimously agreed that there must by systemic reforms to eliminate exam related stress. The issue was further discussed in the conference of Council of Boards of Secondary Education (COBSE) held on 1st May, 2005, the CBSE has since taken the following steps:

(i) **Segregating the syllabus:**

The Board has segregated the syllabus for classes IX & X and also for classes XI & XII. The examinations for classes IX & XI based on the prescribed syllabus will be conducted by the schools concerned

while for classes X & XII, public examinations are being conducted by the Board.

(ii) **Single theory paper for all subjects:**

The Board has provision for only one theory paper for all subjects in the public examinations for classes X & XII. However, other State Boards were also requested to have once question paper for each subject in the public examinations.

(iii) **Extra time for examination:**

The Board has taken a decision in the recent Governing Body meeting that the studetns be allowed an extra 15 minutes time before the commencement of the examinations to study the question papers. It is also been decided that the question papers will be set in such a way that they can be answered in a time period of two and a half hours while the students will have a time period of three hours for completion of the question paper.

(iv) **Grading pattern:**

The Board has initiated necessary steps for finalizing the pattern of grades which would be introduced at the earliest.

(v) **Flexibility in the choice of subjects:**

Presently, the Board offers adequate flexibility in the choice of subjects at the senior school level in order to meet the requirements multiple intelligence of the students. However, at the secondary level, the Board is implementating the National Core Curriculum with a prescribed set of subjects.

(vi) **Provision of differential levels:**

The Board had moved a proposal for provision of differential levels of difficulty in the subjects of Mathematics and Sciences at the secondary level for students for the secondary level. The matter is under active consideration and will be taken up subsequent to the finalization of the new curricular framework by NCERT.

(vii) **Continuous and comprehensive evaluation:**

The Board conducts public examinations only at the Class X level and has given specific instructions to schools to de-stress

examinations at the primary and at the middle level by adopting continuous and comprehensive evaluation.

(viii) **Internal assessment:**

The Board has taken initiatives to introduce internal assessment in the subjects of Mathematics, Sciences and Social Sciences based on project work and assignments. This would give adequate thrust on continuous learning in classrooms and assessment of the performance of students on a holistic base covering wide range of learning skills rather than one short examination at the secondary level.

Training to Anganwadi Workers

34. SHRI BALAVANT *alias* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any financal assistance from the World Bank for imparting training to the Anganwadi workers under the ICDS scheme;

(b) if so, the amount received during each of the last three years;

(c) the amount allocated/released to the States out of the above funds, State-wise;

(d) whether the World Bank has decided to discontinue the said assistance;

(e) if so, whether the Union Government is formulating any other scheme to bear the cost of expenditure to be incurred on these training programmes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total amount of credit available from the World Bank for the National Training Component — Project Udisha for the Project period is Rs. 409.03 crore including Government of India share.

(c) The amount released to the States/UTs in the last 3 years has been in a furnished statement attached. (*See* below)